

Reviewer 1 v.1

Comments to the Author

Well done post hoc analysis of the Emax trial which addresses an important clinical question of time to maximal response to dual bronchodilator therapy. It also reinforces that in addition to higher improvement in lung function that has been demonstrated by multiple studies, clinical improvement is also better with dual therapy. It also demonstrates that improvement is not universal and that some patients do not show improvement - this may in part be due to pre-existing therapy prior to randomization as about two thirds of the patients were on a bronchodilator during run in. Although not mentioned in the table, I assume they mean a long acting bronchodilator and if that is the case, I would clarify that in the table. The potential of a blunted response in patients on long acting bronchodilators is mentioned in the discussion. It would be interesting to look at response in patients not on any long acting therapy prior to randomization, as the physiologic response would be expected to be greater in that group, and see if there is a corresponding clinical response. Overall, I think this is a well done manuscript and would endorse its publication.